(c) The Government in order to ensure effective implementation of the RTI Act, has been giving training to public information officers/first appellate authorities; has issued various instructions to Ministries/Departments/establishments, published Guides for the Information Seekers, the Central Public information Officers, the First Appellate Authorities, the Public Authorities; giving financial help to the State Information Commissions under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme etc. The Government also launched publicity campaigns to create awareness about the Act.

Incidents of disproportionate assets cases

†821. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether incidents of disproportionate assets through abuse of Governmental and constitutional position by public servants in country, and those occupying constitutional posts in country and States, have increased in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details for the last five years;

(c) whether Government is incapable of curbing such incidents of economic offences;

(d) if not, the reason for Central Vigilance Commission being incapable of curbing such incidents or take concrete action;

(e) whether there should be an autonomous mechanism to monitor corruption in States which can prevent incidents like the recent one involving a former Chief Minister; and

(f) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) The CBI has registered 517 disproportionate assets cases since 1.1.2004 to 31.10.2009. The year-wise figures are as given below:—

Year					
2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009 (Upto 31.10.09)
75	147	78	79	86	52

(c) and (d) Government is fully committed to implement its policy of "Zero Tolerance against Corruption" and is moving progressively to eradicate corruption from all spheres of life by improving transparency and accountability. Several steps have been taken to combat corruption and to improve the functioning of Government. These include:—

(i) Issue of Whistle Blowers Resolution, 2004;

(ii) Enactment of Right to Information Act, 2005;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(iii) The pro-active involvement of Ministry/Department through Annual Action Plan on Vigilance as a preventive measure;

(iv) Issue of comprehensive instructions on transparency in tendering and contracting process by the CVC;

(v) Issue of instructions by the CVC asking the organizations to adopt Integrity Pact in major Government procurement activities, similar instructions have been issued by the Central Government on 16th June, 2009 advising the State Governments to adopt Integrity Pact in major procurements;

(vi) India is amongst the countries who have signed the United Nations Convention against Corruption;

(vii) Introduction of e-Governance and simplification of procedures and systems;

(viii) Issue of Citizen Charters.

(e) and (f) This is a state subject and should be handled as such.

Legislation for corruption cases

822. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to bring forward any legislation for the seizures of illegal properties and assets of Government officials convicted in corruption cases;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when it is likely to bring forward?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (c) The Government has not proposed any new legislation for the seizure of illegal properties and assets of Government officials convicted in corruption cases. A provision for attachment and confiscation of the property and money procured by means of the scheduled offence by the accused persons is already available in the Criminal Law (Amendment) Ordinance, 1944.

Corruption cases against officers

823. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of cases against top Government officers are pending for sanction for their prosecution in corruption cases;

(b) if so, the details thereof and since when these cases are pending;

(c) whether Government proposes to amend Article 31 of the Constitution of India which grants certain rights and protection to Government employees which are often used to delay prosecution of corrupt officials; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and by when it is likely to be brought forward?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. As per information received